

beginning of one fuel cycle to an end of the one fuel cycle;
and

further increasing the flow rate of the coolant supplied to the core during the at least one period in a state in which the at least one water rod is completely filled with the coolant and no vapor is present in the at least one water rod at least at the end of the one fuel cycle.

49. A method according to claim 48, the step of raising the coolant surface includes increasing the flow rate of the coolant in the range of 0% to less than 110% of the flow rate and the step of further increasing the flow rate of the coolant includes increasing the flow rate above 110% of the flow rate.--

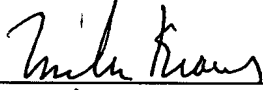
REMARKS

In light of the Group Directors Decision on Petition dated March 10, 1998 vacating the finality of the Office Action dated May 12, 1997, and requiring consideration of claims 23-29 directed to the method, submitted herewith are additional method claims 38-49, corresponding to the claims previously under consideration as well as previous method claims 24-29, all of which claims are readable on the previous elected species.

Consideration of such claims in this application is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, applicant's petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (501.25507CX5) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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